

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 2024

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Much of Montana remained dry during the week, with measurable moisture limited to trace amounts across areas that recorded precipitation, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Some areas in the west and south fared slightly better, according to data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC). Some locales in the west and south received precipitation in a range of about 0.1 to 0.4 inch. Isolated areas received somewhat higher amounts. Temperatures varied across the State. Parts of the northeast experienced average temperatures as high as 6 degrees above normal, also according to the HPRCC. Moving west and south, average temperatures mostly decreased. Average temperatures in parts of the southwest ran as much as 8 degrees below normal. Changes in drought conditions were, once again, minimal according to the U.S. Drought Monitor released October 31. The amount of land rated drought free increased by one percentage point to 15 percent from the previous week. Abnormal dryness fell by the same amount to 30 percent. Moderate drought conditions fell to 19 percent, down 2 percentage points from last week. Severe conditions, in turn, increased 2 percentage points to 22 percent. Extreme and exceptional conditions held steady, at 13 and 1 percent, respectively. The need for moisture across the State was evident, but the lack of precipitation allowed for an average of 7.0 days available for fieldwork. An agent for Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties stated that most livestock were moved from non-irrigated pastures. Some livestock remained on irrigated pastures. Infrequent rain showers passed through some areas, but accumulations were limited. Snow was visible at higher elevations. Harvests were wrapping up. Fall crop planting activities were mostly complete. The dryness in Roosevelt County was reportedly unrelenting. Conditions in Valley County were also very dry. Winter wheat fields showed poor emergence due to the lack of precipitation, and what had emerged was struggling. A reporter for Wibaux County indicated no moisture was received. Spotty emergence was seen in the few acres seeded with winter wheat.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	72	62	78	60
Sugar beets				
Harvested.....	71	54	73	69
Winter wheat				
Planted.....	95	88	97	96
Emerged	80	72	83	78
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	68	61	70	67
Receiving supplemental feed	45	41	47	40
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from pasture	60	52	62	67
Receiving supplemental feed	43	33	40	43

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work	7.0	7.0	3.6	4.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	37	31	9	22
Short.....	36	33	39	33
Adequate	27	36	49	39
Surplus	--	--	3	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	37	31	38	33
Short.....	38	37	29	30
Adequate	25	32	32	33
Surplus	--	--	1	4

NA – not available
 (--) – zero

CROP, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Pasture and range				
Very poor	39	34	12	27
Poor	27	27	14	19
Fair	29	36	27	23
Good	5	3	42	26
Excellent	--	--	5	5
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	3	1	1	8
Poor.....	11	9	2	12
Fair	64	73	31	36
Good	22	17	25	30
Excellent.....	--	--	41	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero